vogue under which senior citizens are identified, beat-wise and division-wise in every police Station. Beat staff of the Police Stations visits these senior citizens to offer them advice on security measures that should be taken.

(ii) During the beat and division patrolling, special vigil is maintained around the residences of senior citizens.

(iii) The antecedents of servants and others employed by elderly persons are verified.

(iv) The Chowkidars of the area have been briefed to keep an eye on the residences of this category of persons.

Illegal Entry of Sri Lankan Citizens

614. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some Sri Lankan citizens living in Delhi illegally without any valid documents were arrested in July, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the manner in which they entered India;

(c) whether these citizens have since been deported to Sri Lanka, and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Delhi Police arrested 10 Sri Lankan citizens on the 11th July, 1996 from a hotel where they were found to be staying without valid travel documents. During investigation, it was found out that they had reached Delhi on their way to Canada from Sri Lanka. They had travelled by ship to Madras and from Madras to Delhi by air.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Since all the accused ae facing trial in the court, they could not be deported. They were, however, released on bail in September/October, 1996 under the orders of the court. Look out cards in respect of them have been opened by the Foreigner Regional Registration Office (F.R.R.O.) to prevent their escape from the country.

Environmental Development Schemes

615. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased state :

(a) whether the Government propose to undertake the environmental development schemes in wild life centres in the country with the assistance of World Bank and Universal Environmental Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the norms adopted for the selection of Wild Life Centres for implementing the development schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b). The India - Eco-development Project, with assistance from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the International Development Association (IDA) is in the final stages of clearance. The project covers 7 wildlife protected areas, namely Buxa National Park (West Bengal), Gir National Park (Gujarat), Nagarhole National Park (Karnataka), Palamau National Park (Bihar), Pench National Park (Madhya Pradesh), Periyar National Park (Kerala) and Ranthambore National Park (Rajasthan). The total cost of the project over a 5-year period is US $ 67 million. The project will support eco-development activities in and around the selected protected areas to reduce the negative impacts of human activities on these areas. In addition, another eco-development project with assistance from IDA is under implementation in the Great Himalayan National Park (Himachal Pradesh) and Kalakad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve (Tamil Nadu) with a total outlay of US $ 5.3 million over a period of five years.

(c) Selection of project sites has been done on the basis of their biodiversity values and the availability of infrastructure and capacity to implement such projects.

Prices of Wheat and Rice

616. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA :

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the main reasons for increase in domestic prices of wheat and rice despite the bumper crops; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to check the domestic prices of wheat and rice?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) The increase in prices of wheat and rice in the open market is due to the following factors :-

(i) Periodic Increase in Minimum Support Prices of Wheat and paddy for 1996-97 Rabi and Kaharif Seasons.

(ii) Increase in transport cost on account of hike in petroleum products.

(iii) Lower production of wheat in 1995-96 by 3.1 million tonnes.

(iv) Holding back surplus stocks at the village level in enticipation of higher prices in lean months.

(v) Holding back of stocks by exporters/traders anticipating higher prices.